as well as the work girls have to do related to fuel, fodder, water, sibling care etc.

(b) Various schemes run by the Government of India like District primary Education Programme (DPEP), Mahila Samakhya, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education and Adult Education Schemes under National Literacy Mission (NLM) provide for active Community participation in the form of Village Education Committees, Panchayati Raj Institutions, School Management Committees, Parent-Teacher Associations, Mother-Teacher Associations, Mahila Mandals and religious and community leaders, to elicit support for improving girls' education.

Literacy for Female and Child Workers

691. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan to spread literacy among the female and child labour in agriculture and industry in the country, so as to enable them to read and write atleast;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) The Government has adopted the following strategies to improve the female literacy in the country:

- National Literacy Mission.
- Mahila Samakhya Programme.
- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(b) and (c) National Literacy Mission seeks to achieve full literacy *i.e.* sustainable threshold level of 75% by 2005 by imparting functional literacy to non-literates in 15—35 age group. In order to achieve this objective, National Literacy Mission implements literacy programmes in three phases *viz.* Total Literacy

Campaign, Post Literacy Programme and Continuing Education Programmes.

Mahila Samakhya Programme is being implemented which builds capacities among group of women and contributes towards empowerment of women in rural areas particularly from socially and economically marginalised groups.

Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), education of girls is the primary focus. SSA recognizes the need for special efforts to bring out the school-girls especially from disadvantaged sections to schools. It also calls for involving women through participatory process in the effective management of schools. Some of the steps undertaken by the States under SSA are:—

(i) Setting up special models of Alternate Schools exclusively for girls.

(ii) Using self-help groups mainly comprising of women's groups, Village Education Centres, Mother Teacher Association, to follow up issues for girl's education.

(iii) Special efforts for improvement of access and enrolment, retention and achievement of girls.

Group C vacancies in NCERT

692. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Government Policy, all the reserved vacancies of SCs, STs and OBCs should be filled up within a time bound programme; and

(b) if so, what is the latest status of Group C vacancies, which the NCERT had advertised in the Employment News dated the 19th Febuary, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA): (a) It has always been the effort of the Government to fill up vacancies reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs in a manner as expeditious as possible.